
(12) UK Patent Application (19) GB (11) 2 169 601 A

(43) Application published 16 Jul 1986

(21) Application No 8600767	(51) INT CL ⁴ C07H 5/02
(22) Date of filing 14 Jan 1986	(52) Domestic classification (Edition H): C2C 1472 1672 215 247 253 25Y 28X 303 313 31Y 337 339 360 361 362 364 36Y 38Y 624 643 652 672 774 777 803 806 80X 80Y VP WJ U1S 1339 C2C
(30) Priority data (31) 8500862 (32) 14 Jan 1985 (33) GB	(56) Documents cited None
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(54) **Stabilisation of sucralose**

(57) Sucralose (4-chloro-4-deoxy- α -D-galactopyranosyl 1,6-dichloro-1,6-dideoxy- β -D-fructofuranoside) is thermally stabilised by co-crystallisation with a nitrogenous base, for example compounds containing an amino group such as niacinamide or an amino acid.

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SPECIFICATION

Composition

5 This invention relates to preparations of chlorosucrose sweeteners of improved colour stability under hot, dry conditions. 5

Chlorosucrose sweeteners, i.e. compounds based on sucrose and galactosucrose in which one or more of certain hydroxy groups are replaced by chlorine atoms, are disclosed in British Patent 1,543,167. Of particular interest is the compound sucralose, (4-chloro-4-deoxy- α -D-galactopyranosyl 1,6-dichloro-1,6-di-10 deoxy- β -D-fructo-furanoside, otherwise known as 4,1'.6'-trichloro-4,1', 6'-trideoxygalactosucrose). Chloro- sugars of this type are intensely sweet (having a sweetness several hundred times that of sucrose) and are of particular interest as low calorie sweeteners to replace saccharin. They are in general relatively stable and inert: a feature that is particularly marked in acid aqueous solutions, in complete contrast to peptide-based sweeteners. 10

15 We have however found that, in contrast to the situation under dissolved conditions, under completely dry conditions, discolouration of the crystalline sweetener can be a problem at high ambient temperatures. For example, if apparently pure dry sucralose is maintained at 100°C, the colour has changed after a period of 20 minutes from colourless (white) to pale brown. 15

We have now found that it is possible to stabilize a chlorosucrose sweetener such as sucralose against 20 thermal discoloration by actually co-crystallizing the sweetener with a minor proportion of a nitrogenous or other base so that the crystalline product contains, for example, about 0.03 to 3.0% by weight of the base. Simply mixing the sucralose with such buffering substances does not provide the necessary protection. The problem, however, with any of the bases which might possibly be of use in the present 25 invention is that they must be capable of providing the desired effect at the level at which they can be induced to co-crystallise with sucralose from a suitable solvent. Furthermore, this level must be reproducible. 25

The nitrogenous base is preferably an amine. Effective amines include secondary or tertiary amines which may either be aliphatic or, preferably cyclic, e.g. imidazole, pyridazine and morpholine. 30

One preferable class of bases comprises the amino acids. These naturally occurring compounds are accepted as dietary compounds and are themselves either harmless or positively beneficial. It is difficult to generalise on this, as some amino acids are much more useful than others. However, it appears to be the case that the acid ones, such as L-glutamic acid, L-cystine and L-aspartic acid are of little use. Basic amino acids such as L-histidine are not much better, although L-lysine alkali metal salts are highly effective and cyclic compounds, such as L-tryptophan and its alkali metal salts, are quite effective. Of the simple amino acids (one amine, one acid), the alkali metal salts of glycine and alanine are of marked interest and L-methionine is also of use. The alkali metal salts of amides such as L-asparagine are of especial 35 interest. Finally, cyclic forms such as L-proline and L-hydroxyproline and their alkali metal salts provide a pronounced effect. 35

In general, the better compounds provide a crystalline sucralose containing 0.2 to 3% of amino acid 40 and provide several hours protection against discolouration of dry sucralose at 100°C. 40

However, it is of particular importance that the nitrogenous base should be an accepted food additive, and it is particularly advantageous that the most effective nitrogenous base that we have so far found is in fact niacinamide, otherwise known as 3-pyridine carboxylic acid amide, and generally classed as a B vitamin. Niacinamide is, of course, both a tertiary amine and an amide. It has the ability to be co-crystallized easily with sucralose without adversely affecting the crystals. In particular, it has the advantage of 45 having a suitable solubility in an ester solvent such as ethyl acetate, which is preferred for the final crystallization of sucralose. Thus, if a solution of sucralose in ethyl acetate is augmented with 1 to 10% by weight (based on the sucralose) of niacinamide, the sucralose can be crystallized from the solution, washed with further ethyl acetate and dried under vacuum to give a fine crystalline material containing 50 about 0.3 - 0.9% of niacinamide in the sucralose. Such a material has a much improved colour stability compared with normal sucralose and, for example, under the test conditions described above, would be practically unchanged after 7 or more hours at 100°C. 50

Niacinamide has further advantages over some other amines and amides, of being both tasteless and odourless and of being completely safe and non-toxic, at the extremely low levels at which it is incorporated in the sucralose. It can also be crystallised with sucralose at a reproducible level. As the sucralose itself need only be incorporated in an oral product at very low levels, for example about 0.015% by weight, the actual content of the niacinamide in the final sweetened product would only range from about, say, 0.5 to 1.5 ppm. 55

The sweetness of sucralose was not affected by incorporation of niacinamide at 0.58%. 60

The following examples illustrate the invention. 60

Example 1

The additives were incorporated into sucralose by crystallising sucralose from an ethyl acetate solution containing the additive, except in the case of sodium acetate where ethanol was used as the crystallizing 65 solvent. It is necessary to do this, because simple dry-mixing of sucralose and the additive is not effec-

tive in enhancing stability. The procedure for incorporating niacinamide is detailed below.

To a solution of sucralose (10g) in methanol (50 ml) was added niacinamide (0.5g). The solution was evaporated with vacuum at 50° to give a residue which was re-dissolved in ethyl acetate, the evaporation was repeated to ensure the removal of methanol, and the residue was then redissolved in ethyl acetate 5 (50 ml). The solution was cooled to 20° and allowed to crystallize overnight with stirring. The crystals of sucralose were filtered off, washed with ethyl acetate (25 ml) and dried. This gave a level of incorporation of niacinamide of 0.79%.

Similar crystallizations were effected with other bases in similar amounts, to give a product containing the base in the quantity indicated in Tables 3, 4, and 5 below. Each of the crystalline materials was then 10 subjected to the stated temperatures in an open vessel and the time taken for a pale brown colour to develop was noted.

The results are given in the following Tables 1 - 5.

TABLE 1

15 *Incorporation of niacinamide into sucralose*

SAMPLE NO	AMOUNT OF NIACINAMIDE ADDED (mg/g sucralose)	% NIACINAMIDE IN SAMPLE ^a
A1	10	0.29
A2	10	0.38
B1	20	0.50
B2	20	0.45
C1	50	0.79
C2	50	0.77
D1	80	0.85
D2	80	0.85
E1	100	0.63
E2	100	0.66

TABLE 2

35 *Colour Stability of sucralose with and without Niacinamide at 50°, 70° and 100°C*

SAMPLE NO	% NIACINAMIDE	APPROX TIME FOR SAMPLE TO BECOME VERY PALE BROWN		
		100°	70°	50°
Control	0.0	20 mins	12 hrs	9 days
A1	0.29	1.5 hrs	5 days	5 weeks
A2	0.38	3 hrs	6 days	12 weeks
B1	0.50	4 hrs	10 days	20 weeks
B2	0.45	4 hrs	10 days	20 weeks
E1	0.63	6.5 hrs	13 days	30 weeks
E2	0.66	5.5 hrs	10 days	30 weeks
C1	0.79	5.5 hrs	14 days	>20 weeks
C2	0.77	>7 hrs	16 days	>30 weeks
D1	0.85	>7 hrs	16 days	>30 weeks
D2	0.85	>7 hrs	16 days	>30 weeks

TABLE 3

Incorporation of Bases into sucralose

5	BASE	% BASE IN SAMPLE ^a	TIME (MINUTES) FOR SAMPLE TO BECOME VERY PALE BROWN AT 100°C	5
10	Control	0.0	20	
	Imidazole	0.32	40	
	Morpholine	0.3	150	
	Pyridazine	0.03	90	
	Sodium acetate	0.02	50	

15 TABLE 4

Incorporation of L-amino acids into sucralose

20	AMINO ACID	% AMINO ACID INCORPORATED ^a	APPROX TIME (MINUTES) FOR SAMPLE TO BECOME VERY PALE BROWN AT 100°C	20
25	L-arginine	0.52	40	
	L-tyrosine	0.26	27	
	L-histidine	1.30	77	
	glycine	0.43	105	
	L-glutamic acid	0.42	45	
	L-hydroxyproline	1.03	>280	
	L-valine	1.50	65	
	L-proline	1.31	>280	
	L-glutamine	0.10	30	
	L-asparagine 2H ₂ O	0.80	55	
30	L-cystine	-	32	
	L-tryptophan	2.19	130	
	L-leucine	1.87	45	
	L-isoleucine	2.15	25	
	L-phenylalanine	2.00	80	
	L-serine	0.45	80	
	L-alanine	0.95	35	
	L-methionine	1.92	120	
35	L-aspartic acid	-	30	
	Control	0.0	20	
40				40
45				45

^a This figure is an estimate based on nitrogen analysis.

TABLE 5

Incorporation of sodium salts of L-amino acids into sucralose

5	AMINO ACID SODIUM SALT	% AMINO ACID INCORPORATED ^a	APPROX TIME (MINUTES) FOR SAMPLE TO BECOME VERY PALE BROWN AT 100°C	5
10	Glycine	1.04	280	10
	L-histidine	1.90	105	
	L-hydroxy- proline	1.31	>140	
	L-proline	0.29	>140	
15	L-lysine	0.54	>280	15
	L-aspartic acid (di-Na)	1.77	40	
	L-asparagine	2.86	>280	
	L-serine	0.82	40	
20	L-tryptophan	0.97	115	20
	L-valine	0.69	40	
	L-cystine (mono-Na)	2.15	75	
	L-alanine	0.48	135	
	L-methionine	>0.24	103	
25	L-phenylalanine	>0.13	60	25
	L-glutamic acid (di-Na)	1.91	95	
	L-glutamine	0.60	70	
	L-isoleucine	0.33	60	
30	Control	0.0	20	30

^a This figure is an estimate based on nitrogen analysis.

35 *Example 2 - Larger scale production*

The method for incorporation of niacinamide into sucralose crystals was repeated on a larger scale as follows.

To a solution of sucralose (10 kg) in methanol (50 litres) was added niacinamide (0.5 kg). The solution was evaporated with vacuum at 50°C to give a residue which was re-dissolved in ethyl acetate and the evaporation repeated to ensure the removal of methanol. The residue was then re-dissolved in ethyl acetate (50 litres), the solution cooled to 20°C and mixed with a high shear mixer for 1 hour to nucleate the crystallisation. The slurry was then stirred for 16 hours and the crystals of sucralose were then filtered off, washed into ethyl acetate (25 litres) and dried. The level of incorporation of niacinamide was found to be 0.43%. A yield of 7.5 kg of product was obtained.

45 The colour-stability of the product was greater than 4 months at 50°C when measured by the procedures described in Example 1. 45

CLAIMS

50 1. Sucralose (4-chloro-4-deoxy- α -D-galactopyranosyl 1,6-dichloro-1,6-dideoxy- β -D-fructofuranoside) co-crystallised with a thermally stabilising amount of a nitrogenous base. 50

2. Sucralose according to claim 1 co-crystallized with an aliphatic or cyclic secondary or tertiary amine. 55

3. Sucralose according to claim 1 co-crystallised with an amino acid. 55

4. Sucralose according to claim 2, co-crystallised with a cyclic tertiary amine carrying an amide group. 55

5. Sucralose according to claim 4, co-crystallised with niacinamide. 55

6. Sucralose according to claim 5 containing 0.3 to 0.9% by weight of niacinamide. 55

7. A method of improving the thermal stability of sucralose by crystallising it from a co-solution of sucralose and a nitrogenous base to obtain a co-crystallised product containing sucralose and a thermally stabilising amount of said base. 60

8. A method according to claim 7, in which the base is an aliphatic or cyclic secondary or tertiary amine. 60

9. A method according to claim 7, in which the base is an amino acid. 65

10. A method according to claim 8, in which the base is a cyclic tertiary amine carrying an amide group. 65

11. A method according to claim 10, in which the base is niacinamide.
12. A method according to claim 11 in which the product contains 0.3 to 0.9% by weight of niacinamide.

Printed in the UK for HMSO, D8818935, 5/86, 7102.
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